Single window cooperative for farmers' requirements

*171. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have accepted in principle the scheme of the Andhra Pradesh Government about single window cooperative reorganisation so that the farmer gets all his requirements at one place; and

(b) if so by when Government propose to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Since the implementation of the concept of single-window approach in the entire State involves financial, organisational and administrative implications, it has been considered advisable to study the various aspects of integration of short-term and long-term cooperative credit structures, and to work out the modalities in consultation with the State Government. the Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development before a final decision is taken in the matter. A Committee has been set up to study all these aspects and submit its report.

(b) No time schedule can be indicated at present.

National project on bio-fertilizer

*172. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national project on bio-fertilizers has been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent will it bring down the requirements of chemical fertilizers; and

(d) what are the present requirements and availability of various types of fertilizers and the extent to which requirements for each type would be met by the bio-fertilizer project?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir:

(b) The National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers was sanctioned in March, 1983. It has the provision for setting up of one National Centre 6 Regional Centres and financial support to 40 sub-centres.The National Centre is being set up at or around Delhi and Regional Centres at Hissar, Pune, Bangalore, Jabalpur, Bhubaneswar and Shillong. The 40 sub-centres are located in 18 States.

(c) It would not bring down the requirements of chemical fertilisers as it would only supplement the nitrogen requirement of certain crops.

(d) The assessed requirement of fertilisers for Rabi 1985-86 (October. 1985 to March, 1986) and the likely indigenous availability are indicated below:

(lakh tonnes)

	N	P	K	Total
1. Assessed requirement	35·20	14·61	5·75	55·56
2. Likely indigenous availability . . .	23·90	7·91	1·51	33·32

The balance will be met through imports for which necessary arrangements have been made.

Bio-fertilisers being only supplementary source, will not reduce the requirements of different types of fertilisers.

Diversion of land from sugarcane cultivation

*173. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane cultivators have been diverting from sugarcane to other crops because the support price for sugarcane has been unremunerative; and

(b) if so, what was the area under sugarcane cultivation and the sugarcane production during the last three years year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The long-term trend (1967-68 to 1984-85) in the area under sugarcane cultivation indicates a steady growth rate of 1.81 per cent per annum. Area under sugarcane crop has declined marginally by 0.3 million ha. and 0.1 million ha. during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively which is not an unusual phenomenon. This does not also mean any diversion of area under sugarcane to other crops whatsoever. Government fixes the statutory minimum price for sugarcane taking into consideration, among other things, the cost of cultivation plus a reasonable margin of profit for the sugarcane growers. In the circumstances, the marginal decline observed during the recent years cannot be attributed to unremunerativeness of the price received by the sugarcane farmers.

(b) The area and production of sugarcane during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Area (Million ha.)	Production (Million tonnes in cane)
1982-83	3.4	189.5
1983-84	3.1	174.1
1984-85	3.0	173.6

Drought situation in Andhra Pradesh

*174. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh was adversely affected by drought recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the amount of central aid given to tackle drought in that State; and

(d) whether Government propose to evolve permanent measures to check the occurrence of drought in the State, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) During the South West monsoon (June—September) 1985, rains in certain parts of Andhra Pradesh were deficient and uneven. This resulted in drought situation in these parts of the State.

(b) According to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government on 5th October 1985, 34.62 lakh persons, 18.70 lakh hectares of cropped area and 63.03 lakh cattle population covering 19 districts of the State were affected.